CALPEEK

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ELECTION SPECIAL

Editor's note: With 64 regularly scheduled municipal elections, 4 Legislative specials and Props. 168 to 174 on this Nov. 2nd ballot, CALPEEK now provides a roundup of the key battles and some general observations...

...Except for NO on Prop. 174, money is very *tight* in most races. And because of the funding situation, CALPEEK has noted that there are only two(2) major slate operations in this cycle - one funded by the CA Demo Party and a second slate organized by consultant Allan Hoffenblum. And as usual, most of the information being supplied to voters comes from the print media --- TV (with the exception of cable TV) has once again taken a duck on meaningful campaign coverage...

• **Prop. 174** - The school voucher initiative is probably the most controversial item on the Nov. 2nd ballot. Polling by both the L.A. Times and the Field Institute continue to show 174 in real trouble. Not surprising, given the massive amount of money (more than $11 million) that the educational establishment (read that as the powerful CA Teachers Assn.) has thrown against it in a series of attack ads aimed at a couple of serious flaws in the initiative's wording. So it doesn't take a rocket scientist to predict that 174 goes down. What is surprising, however, is growing concern that the educational establishment might take their predicted victory as a sign that they can relax. There are massive problems with the public schools and if something isn't done soon, another school voucher measure will be qualified and it could win. Prediction: the upcoming 1994 battle for State Supt. of Public Instruction won't be a tame, mild mannered contest, and vouchers could be a significant issue in this race...

• **27th A.D. Special** - In the battle to replace Sam Farr(D) in the Assembly, Republicans have a solid chance to pick up this seat which has been long held by the Demos. If Republican Bruce McPherson were to defeat Santa Cruz Co. Sup. Gary Patton, it would be considered a **major upset**. GOP polling on behalf of McPherson showed him leading Patton very substantially among high propensity voters (51% to 31%). McPherson is a moderate GOPer, while Patton is a pro-environmental liberal. Being pro-environment works in this district most of the time, but not in the midst of a major recession, where Patton is being portrayed as anti-business. And that's Patton's problem. On the plus side for Patton is registration and the UC Santa Cruz students. FYI: Patton has been hit with some mail paid for by the Fund for a Responsible Legislature - an independent expenditure committee that usually gets its funds from hardline conservatives and contributes to very conservative candidates and causes. Demos are trying to capitalize on this recent development. CALPEEK rates this contest as a **toss up**...

• **Prop. 170** - This is the measure to approve bonds for school construction with a simple majority vote instead of the current *2/3rds* vote. There's no getting around it, Prop. 170 faces an *uphill battle*, but some sources think there is a slight chance this measure could squeak by. In September, a poll by S.F. based Charlton Research showed 170 ahead by a 42% to 36% margin, with 22% undecided. But more recent data by the Field Poll and the L.A. Times shows 170 going down to defeat --- big time. The Field Poll shows just 28% YES to 53% NO, while the L.A. Times has almost the same data --- 34% YES to 53% NO, with 13% undecided. Major opposition to 170 has come from the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn., which has raised and spent close to $1 million on radio and cable TV ads. The major thrust of the NO campaign is that if approved, 9 out of 10 bond measures will pass - and thus

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property taxes will skyrocket upward. The YES side has had a tough time raising money, but during the last week spent about $200,000 on TV in L.A. and another $150,000 on radio in 3 markets. Why so little money? Major funding for 170 was supposed to come from builders, but it just wasn't there. Prediction: Prop. 170 loses...

• **4th S.D. Special** - If Shasta Co. Sup. Maurice Johannessen(R) loses this special to Demo Montana Podva, it would be a massive upset. Sources say there's little chance Johannessen will lose because Podva just doesn't fit the district. But it's just these kinds of slam dunk campaigns that sometimes worries consultant Wayne Johnson, who is running the Johannessen campaign --- particularly when the funds dry up because everyone thinks the campaign is in the bag. Prediction: Johannessen wins. FYI: What's happening now in Sacto is some finger pointing --- mostly aimed at State Sen. Mike Thompson(D). The 4th S.D. was his district and most sources believe Thompson could have held this seat in 1994. But Thompson abandoned the 4th to run in the safer and neighboring 2nd S.D. when Barry Keene resigned. Had Thompson stayed put, sources tell CALPEEK, both the 2nd S.D. and the 4th S.D. would have remained in Demo hands. The only question for State Sen. Bill Lockyer(D), the expected successor to David Roberti as Demo Leader in the State Senate, is whether he can recruit Assembly Majority Leader Tom Hannigan to battle Johannessen in 1994...

• **S.F. Muni Election** - The favorite to win reelection for City Atty. is incumbent Louise Renne, who is locked in a battle with challenger Neil Eisenberg. An Oct. 19th poll published in the S.F. Chronicle showed Renne at 38%, Eisenberg at 12%, with a huge 50% undecided. Also looking good at this point is NO on Measure Z, the controversial garbage and recycling proposal. The NO side won important endorsements from the S.F. Chronicle and the Bay Area Guardian...

• **San Diego Council Runoffs** - Most of the attention has been focused on the 1st District runoff, where unsuccessful mayoral candidate Peter Navarro is attempting to win a seat on the council. His rival is Harry Mathis, who actually edged Navarro in the primary, 43% to 42%. Why so much attention to this race? Because San Diego Mayor Susan Golding doesn't want Navarro on the council, where he would be in a position to snipe away at Golding and generally make political life miserable for her. She has endorsed Mathis. Most think the race is very, very close, despite the fact that Navarro has nearly 90% name ID. If Mathis's message has had any impact, then sources say he has a good shot at winning. Many independent expenditure efforts have been undertaken to bash Navarro and boost the Mathis campaign...

• **Prop. 172** - The reasons why Prop. 172, the extension of the 1/2 cent sales tax for public safety purposes, should be approved by voters was made very clear this past week when a series of wildfires devastated parts of So. Calif. While the most recent L.A. Times poll has YES on 172 up by a 44% to 34% margin, supporters of 172 are ***very nervous***. However, there is general agreement among sources that 172 will squeeze by. One politician watching very closely is Gov. Wilson. He has put his political reputation on the line for 172. If it goes down, he'll be in **BIG** trouble. Wilson and Speaker Willie Brown reportedly pumped $125,000 each into the effort with 6 days to go --- for insurance. No need for paid TV ads; the TV fire coverage is very graphic...

• **11th S.D. Special** - Former Congressman Tom Campbell of Palo Alto is the odds on favorite to win Becky Morgan's 11th S.D. senate job on Nov. 2nd without a runoff. Although sources say Demo Hal Plotkin turned out to be a better candidate than expected, he simply can't compete with the Campbell steamroller. Campbell has won just about every endorsement in the area, from the Sierra Club & CLCV to local law enforcement groups from San Mateo & Santa Clara Counties. Campbell even got an endorsement from former San Mateo Co. Demo Party chair Richard Silver. When the campaign first started, conservative businessman Virgil McVicker made some noise, but his campaign has failed to ignite. Bottomline: Demos are saying it will be a miracle if they can hold Campbell below 50%...

• **40th S.D. Special** - In this battle to replace retired State Sen. Wadie Deddeh(D-Chula Vista), there seems little doubt that Demo Assemblyman Steve Peace of Chula Vista will finish in first place. Sources think Peace will get between 42-47%. Demos are working very hard and have their collective fingers crossed that they can go over 50%, but that's not realistic and they

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know it. It's likely that Peace will end up in a Dec. 28th runoff with GOP businessman Joe Ghoughassian, who has won considerable support from the Republican establishment in San Diego. There is an outside chance (slim) that "Light Up the Border" activist Muriel Watson may squeak in on the GOP side. Stay tuned....

WITH THE ELECTION A YEAR AWAY, GOV. PETE'S POLLING NUMBERS HEAD SOUTH ONE MORE TIME. Editor's note: There have been two polls released within days of one another --- both dealing with incumbent GOP Gov. Pete Wilson. Neither survey is very good news for Wilson --- and it could get much worse. Here's CALPEEK's analysis...

...In September, Gov. Wilson's staff was delighted with a new set of job performance numbers released by the L.A. Times and the Field Poll. Both surveys indicated that the governor was beginning to *reverse course* and move **upward** with Calif. voters. But in light of the new data, both previous surveys can be seen only as temporary, upward blips...

...In the L.A. Times poll (on job performance), 31% approve and a huge 55% disapprove. The previous month, 37% approved and 45% disapproved...

...Among Wilson's base of GOP voters, in this same L.A. Times poll, 46% approve, but 44% disapprove. That's not good. But it gets worse. Among those GOPers who consider themselves to be conservatives, Wilson gets only a 40% approval rating, compared to 49% who disapprove. Hardline conservatives have never liked Wilson, but these numbers, for the first time, show the depth of their dislike for him...

...Why the drop? In September, Wilson was riding high on the budget being signed on time, the workers' comp reform agreement and the new business stimulation package passed by the Legislature. He also scored lots of points by jumping on illegal immigration. But Wilson's illegal bashing had a downside too. As for conservative Republicans, Wilson's support of Prop. 172 (the 1/2 cent sales tax extension) and his opposition to Prop. 174 (school vouchers) are the two reasons why he has dropped so substantially with this group of voters...

...In the Field Poll, Wilson's reelect numbers were **horrible**. 58% are ***not*** inclined to reelect the governor, while 33% said they were inclined to give Wilson a 2nd term in office. When matched against his two Demos rivals, both State Treas. Kathleen Brown and Insurance Comm. John Garamendi defeat Wilson. Brown scores a 50% to 33% win, while Garamendi beats Wilson by a 46% to 34% margin...

...But the *real killer* for Wilson is a simulated match with former Assemblyman Tom McClintock, one of Wilson's harshest critics. The results are Wilson 45%, McClintock 25% and 30% undecided. Will McClintock challenge Wilson? Probably not. But a question being asked with more frequency is why GOP Atty. General Dan Lungren doesn't see the handwriting on the wall. Given these numbers, GOP sources believe Lungren would mash Wilson in a primary battle...

...Could Wilson's numbers get worse? The answer is YES. All one has to do is read the headlines of recent stories about the political corruption trial of lobbyist Clay Jackson and you can quickly understand why Wilson's problems aren't over. In a secretly recorded FBI taping of Jackson, he brags to former State Sen. Alan Robbins that he's "an ad-hoc part of the governor's team." Wilson denies it, saying Jackson has exaggerated his influence. Will the public buy this explanation?? Only time will tell. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK's ETCETERA: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES. Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

- **GOP Assembly Leadership Team** - A few changes to report: Curt Pringle, now an asst. leader, holds that post, but also becomes caucus chair; David Knowles remains an asst. leader; Ted Weggeland moves from asst. whip to whip; and GOP Assembly Leader Jim Brulte names Bill Hoge as asst. whip. Both Andrea Seastrand and Stan Statham have stepped down from the team because they are seeking other offices in 1994...

- **IAPC Picks Stockholm Over Moscow** - The Internat'l Assn. of Political Consultants will hold its Dec. 9-12 annual meeting in Stockholm instead of Moscow. Moscow was the original choice, but then came all this trouble and the IAPC decided to move its winter meeting...

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CA RURAL COUNTIES TO HOLD ANNUAL MEETING.
The Regional Council of Rural Counties will conduct their annual conference from Nov. 3-5 at the Embassy Suites Hotel, South Lake Tahoe. The RCRC conference will coincide with the Sacto Mother Lode Regional Assn., the County Engineers' Assn. of CA, and the No. Calif. County Supes Assn. --- all under one roof. For info about the RCRC conference, call (916) 447-4806...

1994 CALPEEK UPDATE: LOTS OF ACTION IN CONTESTS FOR CONTROLLER & SEC. OF STATE.
Editor's note: With the Statewide elections for constitutional officers 1 year away, there's been a noticeable amount of activity in the battles for Controller and Secretary of State. Here's our update...

• **CONTROLLER** - Pressure continues to build on former Assemblyman Tom McClintock, now living in Sacramento, to declare his candidacy for this office, which is being vacated by incumbent Controller Gray Davis(D). But there is also continued speculation that McClintock might be the hardline conservative alternative to Gov. Pete Wilson(R). In a 1-on-1 match, Wilson doesn't even get 50% against McClintock, who is not well known except to insiders...

...On the Demo side, keep your eyes on L.A. business executive Kathleen M. Connell, who is a task force member of Rebuild L.A. and teaches international business finance at UC Berkeley and at UCLA. Connell used to work for Mayor Tom Bradley, but has never run for elective office. Sources say she's very serious about running for controller and is now in the process of interviewing campaign consultants. She'll make a firm decision in 2-3 weeks. If she runs, watch out. Sources think she can raise a credible warchest and she's a fresh, female face who is *pro-business*...

• **SECRETARY OF STATE** - On the Demo side, Assemblywoman Jackie Speier of San Mateo is moving her campaign to succeed incumbent March Fong Eu(D) into high gear. She's hired consultant Paul Kinney for media & strategic consulting; Fairbank, Maslin & Maullin will handle polling; and Suone Cotner, who used to be former L.A. Councilman Mike Woo's fundraiser, also has been hired. As for Woo, sources believe he's still interested in running for this office...

...Ron Gray has been hired by Chief Deputy SOS Tony Miller to direct the daily operations of his Demo primary campaign. As CALPEEK noted last week, McElroy Communications has been hired by Miller as media consultants for the campaign. Gray has been a staffer with LG Leo McCarthy. Stay tuned...

ANGELIDES TO ADDRESS L.A. PA OFFICERS GROUP.
Former CA Demo Party chair Phil Angelides, now a Demo candidate for State Treasurer, will address members of the L.A. Public Affairs Officers Assn., 11:30 a.m. reception, 12 noon luncheon, Nov. 17, L.A. Hilton & Towers, downtown L.A. Angelides' speech is titled, "Starting Over: Rebuilding A Bankrupt State Govt." For info, Diana May at (213)975-5107...

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